



European COLlaborative LEarning network Newsletter

Number 1 – September 2003

Dear all,

We are starting a new school year and along with it comes the first number of the ECOLLE-network Newsletter. This is meant to be one of the many bridges we are building in order to interconnect the best practices in Computer Supported Collaborative Learning.

The aims of these Newsletters are:

- to inform all ECOLLE members about the evolution of the work being done in the frame of the network;
- to share information about what is happening world-wide in the field of Computer Supported Collaborative Learning;
- to put in contact schools and teachers willing to implement and develop collaborative projects.

If you have any news or information in the field of Computer Supported Collaborative Learning you would like to share or if you want to find partners for your CSCL project please send us a mail with that information and we will gladly publish it in the next ECOLLE-network Newsletter issue.

Thanks for being part of this learning community of teachers.
We wish you a fruitful school year full of collaborations.

Latest news about the ECOLLE-network

The ECOLLE-network 3rd Conference will be held in Prague, in March 2004. It will be a joint initiative promoted by the ECOLLE-network and the European Schools Project.
More details about this international event in next issues of the ECOLLE-network newsletters.

Projects – ECOLLE Comenius accepted projects

The projects **Tell me!**, **Art through children's eyes and computer mouse** and **TeenTour –A guided tour for teenagers** were born during the Bridges for Learning conference in Prague. The first two were also successful try-out projects designed in the framework of the ECOLLE-network. All the three of them were approved by the National Agencies and Brussels and are now Comenius 1 projects.

Tell me! - <http://www.eps-cruz-pau.rcts.pt/tellme/>

Tell me! was implemented during a short period of time by 5 schools: Istituto Comprensivo 'Via Bitossi, 5, Roma, Italy; Aadland Skole, Norway; Solkan Elementary School, Slovenia; Studies Center Joan XXIII, L'Hospitalet Barcelona, Spain and Escola Básica 2, 3 da Cruz de Pau, Portugal.

After this trial period application forms were sent to the National Agencies and the **Tell me!** was approved and is now a Comenius 1 project with the following schools as partners Istituto Comprensivo "Via Bitossi, 5, Roma, Italy; Aadland Skole, Norway and Escola Básica 2, 3 da Cruz de Pau, Portugal.

Tell me! is mainly a languages (mother tongue as well as foreign languages) and ICT based project where other subjects such as Arts, Music and Sports have also a very important role. The pupils involved in the project, aged 8 to 12, will exchange between themselves expressions, words, sentences, dialogues, songs, traditional tales, traditional games, etc in various areas and topics. In this exchanges pupils will use their mother tongues as well as English, making also use of drawings and pictures as a way of getting closer to the others. With this project we want to promote the pupils' mother tongues, specially from countries with not so widely spoken languages in Europe and to facilitate the free circulation of citizens between European countries, making them more aware of the differences and similarities between themselves and their cultural and social contexts.

Art through children's eyes and computer mouse

Art through children's eyes and computer mouse was implemented during the last school year by 7 schools: Primo Circolo Didattico di Roma, Rome, Italy; Bråhögsskolan / Borggårdsskolan, Staffanstorp, Sweden; Scoala "Ing.Ion Basgan ",Focsani, Romania; Agrupamento Horizontal de Escolas e JI das Freguesias de Azoia, Barreira, Cortes e Parceiros - Escolas EB1 de Andreus e EB1 n.º 6 de Leiria, Leiria, Portugal; The Abbey, Woodbridge, England; Escola Montcau- La Mola, Matadepera, Spain and Solkan Primary School, Solkan, Slovenia

It aims to develop students' attitude towards art, their observation of it, creativity and the use of ICT for creating artworks. There will be a strong co-operation with national artists and galleries in all involved countries to present and guide young students into the world of art at national and international levels. Project is also environment oriented and involves many other school subjects to produce materials on the topics. So topics coverage will involve cross-curricula links, incorporating for example mother tongue (English), History, maths, physics, science, music and ICT.

The overall aim of the project is to help children (including those with special needs) to acquire knowledge of their local and partners' artists, nature, towns and countries. They will achieve certain skills through interacting in simple tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar matters, using different techniques for creating art including ICT, exchanging it interactively with peer students abroad. Working in groups, co-operating and exchanging ideas and materials students will learn to draw, organise work and use different devices (camera, Computer, Internet, printer, scanner...). All work produced during the project will be published in the special project Website.

Teen Tour – A guided tour for teenagers

The project **TeenTour – A guided tour for teenagers** - joins students from different countries (Portugal, Denmark, Italy, Spain) with different ages and

knowledge-level, to produce a Webpage that shares, through their point of view, information about spare time activities in their region/city. With **TeenTour** the partner schools want to develop strategies for the students' involvement in the educational process of learning.

In fact they start to gather information from step one, then they sort out the most important elements of their interests in their area. They plan the link for their area, discuss with other students about the opportunities of their spare time, focus their attention on their own desires and ideas and get involved into the problems that appear during the process.

They take part in the whole process of the project and will benefit from learning and interacting with other pupils, their teachers, other teachers and representatives of institutions. This will contribute to a personal and social improvement in a life of long learning perspective.

Open projects (short term projects)

Computer Metamorphosis – Europe, Let's Create Together!

is one activity project dedicated to the year 2003 - the **European Year of Disabled People**. This project aims to deepen students' attitude towards art, to encourage them to observe and understand artworks and finally to create their own interpretation - metamorphosis of the artworks with the help of ICT tools. For this occasion we have chosen the three posters of **Henri de Toulouse - Lautrec** (1864-1901).

We started the project in May with six submitted schools. The first artworks have already been published and can be seen in the Solkan Primary School, Slovenia electronic gallery.

(http://www2.arnes.si/~osngso3s/metamorphosis/metamorphoses_europe.htm)

As many schools from Europe asked to prolong it to autumn, we postponed the deadline of art submissions to **October 30, 2003**.

The best in each category **will be** symbolically awarded. Don't hesitate, submit!

Examples of good practice

The Image of the Other

Since March 2003 the (international) teleproject for English as a second language, the ESP project *The Image of the Other* has its own new portal - <http://www.europeanschoolsproject.org/image/>.

Here you can get materials ready to take and use directly in the classroom, search for a partner, apply for a project, ask for advice, discuss the topics with the colleagues from other countries in Europe, find useful links and examples of good practice. You have also access to the German and French versions and soon the Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Slovene versions will also be available.

The portal was created with the aim of facilitating and improving the organisation of the teachers' and students' work alike. The changes introduced want to make use as much as possible of the new possibilities technology and Internet offers nowadays which leads to a new and improved ways of using the material.

New Tools short advisory

The **ECOLE Network** offers **working tools** for every teacher interested in participating in collaborative learning projects within the ECOLE framework.

1. Do you want to meet colleagues in virtual conferences and chat rooms?
2. Do you need a reliable e-mail address?
3. Do you want working space for your project group?
4. Do you want a place where you can save your material and reach it from anywhere?
5. Do you want to take part in online learning?

Go to <http://www.ecolenet.nl/tools.htm> and find out how useful the ECOLE working tools can be for you and your projects.

Do you also have good suggestions on other collaborative tools? Share them with other colleagues! Write a short description and send it to us. We'll make it available to everybody in the next number.

Partner requests

If...

... you are you looking for a partner to develop an international collaborative project,

or if...

... you are interested in developing a CSCL project and you need partners don't hesitate and send us your request.

We'll publish it in the next number of the ECOLE Newsletter.

Don't forget: Advertise your project here!

ICT-related Conferences around Europe

- **Digital Literacy** – the inevitability of a new sphere of knowledge - The Conference will be organised by the Portuguese National Agency for the Community Programmes Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci with the support of the European Commission and will take place on **18 and 19 September 2003** at the "Centro de Congressos da AIP" at Praça das Indústrias in Lisbon.
Contacts: e-mail - digitalliteracy@socleo.pt
phone number - + 351 21 891 99 34
- **2nd European Conference on eLearning – 6- 7 November 2003**, Caledonian Business School, Glasgow, UK. Details about the Conference can be found at: <http://www.mcil.co.uk/ecel/2p-ecel2003-home.htm>
- **EMINENT** – the European Schoolnet's annual Expert Meeting of International and National Educational Networks - takes place on 9 and 10 October 2003, in Geneva. The theme for EMINENT 2003 is 'Empowering the Actors of Tomorrow's School'. The award ceremony for the European Schoolnet's eLearning Awards will take place in conjunction with the conference evening event at Geneva's Grand Théâtre. More info at: http://www.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/html/eminent/eminent2003/frameset_all.html

EC special advertising

1. Calls for proposals for preparatory and innovative actions related to e-learning

The Education and Culture Directorate General from the European Commission has launched two calls for proposals for preparatory and innovative actions related to e-learning. These Calls can be consulted through the [elearningeuropa.info](http://www.elearningeuropa.info) portal (<http://www.elearningeuropa.info>).

The deadline for the submission of proposals is the **22nd of September 2003**.

2. Language learning and linguistic diversity

The Commission has launched a € 1.3 Mio Call for Proposals for two kinds of projects:

1. projects to disseminate information on the potential of European programmes to promote regional and minority languages
2. projects to set up networks of actors working in language learning and linguistic diversity.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **26 September 2003**.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/calls/languages/index_en.html

3. Netd@ys Europe

NetD@ys is an initiative of the European Commission to promote the use of new media in education and culture.

This year Netd@ys concentrates on 'Dialogue between cultures' with an emphasis on Image.

Netd@ys Europe 2003 will be held from **17 to 23 November 2003**. For more information, <http://www.netdayseurope.org/>

On line Readings

Interschool Online Collaborative Projects.- article which provides a very exhaustive scenario on Computer Supported Collaborative Learning experiences:

<http://webtools.cityu.edu.hk/news/newslett/interschool.htm>

Thank you for your co-operation.

Till next month!

The ECOLE-network consortium - ecole@esp.uva.nl